

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0546

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

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USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CY PINT PGOV

SUBJ: CYPRUS WEEKEND PRESS: JOCKEYING OVER ARCHBISHOP'S RETURN

1. OVER WEEKEND, LOCAL GREEK PRESS REPORTED THAT ARCHBISHOP ACCEPTED CREATION TEN CANTONS AS BASIS FOR SOLUTION CYPRUS PROBLEM DURING MAKARIOS' RECENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. REPORT CLAIMED ARCHBISHOP OFFERED GRANT MILITARY BASE TO USG IF AMERICA ASSISTS HIM RETURN TO ISLAND AT EARLY DATE. COMMENT: FIRST HALF OF NEWS ACCOUNT SQUARES WITH REPORTS OF MAKARIOS' MEETING WITH SECRETARY WHICH WERE RECEIVED HERE FROM ARCHBISHOP'S ENTOURAGE. END COMMENT.

2. PRO-CLERIDES PAPERS HAILED ARCHBISHOP'S WILLINGNESS ACCEPT "FEDERAL SOLUTION". ALITHIA CLAIMED MAKARIOS' POSITION "VINDICATED" STANCE TAKEN BY CLERIDES IN ARGO GALLERY SPEECH. KYPROS, TOO, DEDUCED THAT BOTH LEADERS ON SAME COURSE.

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TWO PAPERS HEDGED THEIR PREVIOUS OPPOSITION TO ARCHBISHOP'S

RETURN.

3. PRO-MAKARIOS PHILELEFTHEROS ESCHEWED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE BUT CLAIMED HAVE RELIABLE INFO THAT CLERIDES WILL MEET WITH ARCHBISHOP IN LONDON PRIOR TO ATHENS' SUMMIT.

4. ALL PAPERS CARRIED RUMOR THAT TURKS PLANNING THIRD MILITARY OPERATION TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF SOUTHERN TURK CYPRIOTS. LYSSARIDES' TA NEA CLAIMED THIRD ROUND WOULD BE PRECIPITATED BY INTRA-GREEK FIGHTING; RIGHT-WING PATRIS PINNED BLAME ON ARCHBISHOP'S IMPENDING RETURN. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED GOC HAD "INFORMATION" ABOUT POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION BUT STATED GOVERNMENT TAKING "ALL NECESSARY MEASURES".

5. COMMENT: CLERIDES RAISED POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED TURKISH MILITARY ACTION ("A LAND AND SEA COMMANDO OPERATION FORCIBLY TO EVACUATE TURKS") WITH AMBASSADOR ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS OVER WEEKEND. PRESIDENT SAID WARNING HAD COME FROM SOVIETS, VIA CZECHS. AMBASSADOR TOLD CLERIDES WE HAD NO REPEAT NO INFO OF ANY IMPENDING MILITARY MOVES. TURK CYPRIOT PIO DOWN-PLAYED RUMOR; SAID TRANSFER OF SOUTHERN TURKS MATTER FOR CLERIDES-DENKTASH NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE SEEN NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE OF MILITARY BUILDUP HERE WHICH WOULD INDICATE MILITARY ACTION IMMINENT.
CRAWFORD

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